

“PREPARED, Ready to Roll” Book-2 & 3 - Supplemental Information

This document was created to help you shop for products mentioned in Book-2 and Book-3 of my guidebook series, “PREPARED, Ready to Roll” (PRR). If you don’t have access to Book-2 and 3 in this series, this document may not make sense to you. It was designed to be a companion to these books and is not a standalone resource. Missteps are likely if you use it for any purpose other than as a supplement to my PRR books.

Since links and products change frequently, rather than include specific recommendations in the printed versions of my guidebook series, I opted to include them here, in this supplemental document. By using this method, I can periodically update this information, repair links that have become broken, and add new links for improved or new products.

My objective is to help you purchase what you need, guide you to quality products with noteworthy features, to help you avoid poor choices and expedite the acquisition of these important supplies. If you read this document on a device with Internet access, the blue underlined text will take you to the product offered by either an online store or to a specific product on the manufacturer’s website. If the blue-color text does not open when you click on it with the left mouse button on a computer, use the right button and select “Open Hyperlink” from the menu that appears.

If you downloaded this document more than a month ago and are now going to start using it, I suggest you return to my website and download it again, just in case there is a newer version available. The most current version of this document is available on the “Resources” page of my author’s website, www.SIGSWANSTROM.COM.

If you downloaded this document recently and found that a hotlink doesn’t work, please [Click Here](#) to let me know. Include the product description and a copy of the URL (website address which the link provides). If you can send me the updated link, that will be a great help.

Also, if you know of a product that is better than one I have listed in this document, please tell me about that, too. Suggestions and additions are welcome. We are in this together, and I value the insights and recommendations of my readers.

By the way, I do not have a relationship with the manufacturer of any of these products. Often I am a long-term customer, but I am not a paid advocate or representative of that company. Therefore, I can quickly add a new product, or change my recommendation when convinced that a better product is available.

Since many of us don’t have deep pockets and are therefore price conscious, I have periodically included three product options; a low-price, medium-price, and top-quality priced option. In these cases, the lower-priced items almost always represent a compromise, but it may be necessary in light of your financial ability. It’s not about always buying the best, but rather the best-quality we can afford.

Many of the following links will take you to the recommended product on the Amazon.com website, so it may surprise you to learn that I am not a big fan of Amazon. Why? It’s because they seem to be developing a monopoly. Ultimately this is harmful to both us consumers and the manufacturers. Nevertheless, Amazon’s prices are usually good, they ship quickly, and in my experience they stand behind the products they sell, and returns are easy. Also, since they make it possible to add an assortment of product types to your shopping cart, and to create “wish lists” to make future purchases easier, shopping on Amazon is fast and less arduous. And,

Amazon’s links tend to remain operational longer than those of many other online vendors, so I won’t need to repair broken links as often. At least I hope that’ll be the case!

[Click Here](#) for details on registering for free shipping using “Amazon Prime.” If you’re not acquainted with Prime, it is a way to obtain free shipping on many products, a feature which makes Amazon’s low-price even lower. If you don’t have an Amazon Prime subscription and you are going to order several, it may make sense for you to join. [Click Here](#) for details on the annual membership which is free for the first month—a subscription that can even be canceled anytime even during that first free month. Monthly memberships are also available.

If you want to shop somewhere other than Amazon, that’s great. In that case, the Amazon link will provide specific product details, such as a model number, so you will have what you need to find the same product from a different source.

My favorite retailer of products that I use for emergency situation preparedness is Recreational Equipment Co-op ([REI.com](#)). Even though this business is geared to outdoor sports such as backpacking, many of their products are ideal for the off-grid environments that come with an emergency situation. For example, a water purification filter made for backpackers is ideal for those who are operating in an emergency situation environment. Since REI caters to serious backpackers and adventurers, their products tend to be topnotch.

REI has both brick-and-mortar stores as well as an extensive website. Importantly, they accomplish extensive research before offering a product, and they remove products from their inventory if it consistently gets poor reviews from their customers. As a result, I’ve found products sold by REI, and REI branded products, to be of better quality and more reliable than those sold by many other specialty vendors. These are often far, far better than the products sold by stores which specialize in preparedness products. REI’s prices are not discounted, and ‘sales’ are infrequent on needed products, but in my experience, they don’t price gouge. I’ve been a satisfied REI member for many years. (Membership in the co-op is not required.)

Overview of this document: The links provided here, lead either to personal favorites or those of my group of advisors. We have used these products and found them to meet the needs of the emergency situations we have faced. Or, they lead to products which are used by government entities, or they are illustrative of the features I consider when shopping for specific preparedness products.

I’ve created this document, and included links to these products, as a service to you, my reader. Treat the information contained in this document like any you receive from a knowledgeable friend—evaluate it yourself according to your experience and needs.

No one can be an expert on every topic, so I augment my experience with additional research. With this, I have sought out the advice of true experts to corroborate my findings. Nevertheless, I’m not providing any warranty or guarantee of any kind for any of the products mentioned here or in my books. I offer these suggestions as a helping hand. We are in this together, and we need to help each other get better prepared and ready to roll.

Buyer Beware: I have found that many manufacturers and online retailers misrepresent their preparedness products. These are often similar-in-appearance “knock-off” goods, obsolete versions of products, or past-date products sold as if they are fresh. With this potential problem in mind, be sure you are comparing apples-to-apples when you shop. When buying emergency-use products, purchasing them from an unknown online vendor can be especially risky, so use caution.

This document is not intended to make sense except as an addendum to the book chapter which relates to the subject. If you distribute this to anyone who does not have access to my book, “PREPARED, Ready to Roll” Book-2 and Book-3, you will be doing them a disservice.

Book Chapter: “Maps, Routes, and Navigation”

[Google Maps](#) is an easy place to begin your evacuation-route planning. The menu accessed in the top left corner of Google Maps lets you select where you will start your travels, your destination, and any intermediate destinations you want to include. And, it will alter the route based on your selection of your mode of travel; by vehicle, on foot, or by bicycle. It will also provide you with the estimated travel time for driving, biking, or walking.

These maps are not printable with sufficient detail to make them viable for inclusion in a GO-Bag, but they are a great place to start the process of determining routing and travel times. By using the “options” section, you can avoid highways, and by using the drag-and-drop routing feature, you can avoid bridges, choke points, and potentially dangerous neighborhoods.

Once you have selected your primary and alternative routes, transfer this information to a printed map. Use different colors of a highlighter pen to indicate different routes, and mark them with anticipated travel time.

Google App: Not only can Google Maps be used online with your computer, it is also an app that can be downloaded onto your smartphone. If you choose the app, select the option which lets you download your local map so that you can use it offline. This app can then be extremely helpful, but paper maps are still necessary as you may not have the ability to recharge your phone. Also, electronic devices can be easily damaged, so have a paper map as a backup.

[National Road Map Books for Use in a Vehicle](#): Every vehicle should be equipped with a national or at least regional road atlas such as the Rand McNally Road Atlas. You may not anticipate needing to travel further afield, but if that requirement develops you will need a roadmap with sufficient detail to be useful. Though popular, even large one-page maps are usually not adequate for this purpose because they lack sufficient detail.

[State/Local Recreation Maps](#): “Delorme Atlas & Gazetteer” for your State (or similar style), as well as the version for any State you might need to traverse. This map book is a necessary addition to your vehicle-based supply kit. Use a highlighter to add predetermined routes to your map book, along with notations for sources of supplies, gas stations, possible overnight locations, hospitals and services, homes of friends and relatives, etc. If necessary, select a more modest national road atlas than the one listed above, but don’t neglect the need to have a quality ‘topographic’ or ‘recreation’ map which will be helpful for both walking and driving. Purchase one of these map books for each State in which you will be traveling.

[Pocket Road Map](#) for Each GO-Bag. Lightweight and small in size, a tiny map book can become invaluable if circumstances require that you abandon your safe-haven and head out to safer environs. In a pinch, you can tear pages from it to start a fire, but don’t leave home without knowing your route—including route options for more distant locations.

[Local Street Map](#). An ordinary folded paper street map for your area, similar to the one you’ll find by clicking on this link, is needed in each vehicle and each GO-Bag. If you are trying to save space in your GO-Bag, use scissors to cut out the relevant section from the map, but don’t neglect to include the portions that might be needed for alternate routes.

If you live in a large densely populated metropolitan area, you may need a map book such as a [Thomas Street Guide](#). The objective is to be able to develop a new route when circumstances require it. If your map does not have sufficient detail, this undertaking may be far more difficult or even impossible. At the very least, the duration of your travel may increase significantly. A good map is not a luxury.

[Topographic Maps](#) include land features including roadways, structures, paths, rivers and streams, lakes and other water sources, hills, valleys, and elevations. They are the premier map for navigating on land, so they should be considered essential equipment for evacuation.

‘United States Geological Survey’ maps are available for most of the world as a free service provided by the United States Government. For those regions where a “7.5 minute” high-detail map is available, download it, or purchase the needed map sections online from [USGS.gov](https://www.usgs.gov).

Many commercial mapmakers use these same maps, but they charge a lot more for the same map to which they have often added little more than their logo. (Note: The commercial copies of the USGS maps are often not as current as the updated maps which you can order directly from the government, online, at a lower cost. Visit, [www.USGS.gov](https://www.usgs.gov).)

[Use Waterproof rip-resistant paper](#) if you have access to a laser printer that you can use to reproduce the maps you have downloaded. If you don’t have access to a B&W or color laser printer, this method won’t work. These specialty papers do not work with ink-jet printers. [Casa-nova Adventurers](#), [YUPO](#), and [Revlar](#) are other brands of synthetic papers. None of them will work with inkjet printers.

Another option is to use MapSeal (link below) to treat maps produced using an inkjet printer. This clear paint-like substance will work on ordinary paper maps, and with maps printed using some, but not all, inkjet printers. Or, laminate your paper maps to obtain serious water protection and extra durability.

Important paper maps and documents, those maps that might be used frequently, and those which you include in your GO-Bag, all need to be protected from water and wear. A damaged map can create major difficulties; protection from wear is easy and relatively inexpensive.

[MapSeal Protective Coating](#) is designed to protect maps and important paper documents. Made by Aqua Seal, a company which manufactures various waterproofing products, MapSeal is a clear jelly-like paint that is applied to paper map using the included brush. After it is allowed to dry thoroughly, the paper becomes water resistant and more durable. Be sure to read and follow the directions.

In my experience, a treated document will not dry properly if MapSeal is applied in a humid environment. Even in dry climates, let the treated paper dry for several days before folding it or putting it in a plastic bag. Remember to highlight your route and make other notations on your map before coating it with MapSeal.

Even a map treated with MapSeal should be protected by a map case or a large Ziploc-style clear plastic bag. This simple addition will greatly improve durability.

[Large Ziploc-style Plastic Bags](#). I’ve found that the [2-1/2 gallon](#) Hefty Slider plastic bags to be inexpensive, reasonably durable, and ideal size to use for maps. Fold your map to expose the portion you are using, and then put it back inside the bag to protect it from handling damage and inclement weather. [Map cases](#) are great, but these do-it-yourself map cases are adequate for short-term use such as GO-Bag travel.

Laminating Maps: Though more cumbersome, maps that are plastic laminated will be much more durable than those printed on waterproof paper or treated with MapSeal. Laminating services are offered by many office supply stores as well as some shipping businesses such as UPS or FedEx. Note: Though a laminated map may be more durable than a map treated with MapSeal, a laminated map usually needs to be rolled rather than folded, so inclusion in a GO-Bag can be problematic.

[Military Compass: ‘3H’ Lensatic Compass](#) with Tritium Markers, made by Cammenga the manufacturer who supplies compasses to the U.S. military and militaries around the world. This is my personal favorite for land navigation because it is so versatile and durable, but the below compass will work equally well if the goal is simply to determine magnetic north.

Note on Compass Use: Operate your compass away from metal, magnetic objects, and electrical devices as these can adversely influence the reading. If you don’t know how to use all the

features of a compass, read one of the below books and practice with your maps and compass. Don't depend on a compass that requires batteries.

[Coordinate Scale / Grid Reader / Protractor](#) for more accurate land navigation using topographic maps. This is an improved version of the military 5-2-12 protractor. The compass rose is in both degrees and mils. For use with UTM, MGRS, USNG or other metric-based coordinate systems, and the 7.5-minute maps and 15-minute maps recommended in my books. This device works with map scales: 1:24000 1:25000 1:50000 1:10000 1:100000 1:250000 1:500000. The below military manual will teach you how to use this tool and your compass.

Backpacking Compass: [Suunto](#), [Bruton](#), and Silva make inexpensive models of their high-quality compasses. The Suunto A-30L is popular with serious backpackers who go off-trail, and yet it is reasonably priced when compared to other quality compasses. These are operated differently from that of a military compass which has additional features, so the below book is a better primer for those who will be using this type of compass.

[Military Instructional Book: FM 3-25.26 – “Map Reading and Land Navigation.”](#) Also provides instructions on how to use the Military Lensatic Compass and the military-style protractor (listed above). This book is a copy of the U.S. Army “Field Manual” which teaches soldiers how to use a map and compass. For those with access to military manuals, its designation is FM 3-25.26. [Click Here](#) to download a free PDF copy of this field manual; the link is for those who would like to purchase a printed version of the book rather than print it from the PDF file.

[Instructional Book: “Be Expert with Map and Compass: The Complete Orienteering Handbook,”](#) by Bjorn Kjellstrom, updated by his daughter Karina Elgin. This easy-to-understand handbook explains how to read a map, compass use, and teaches land navigation skills.

[Instructional Book: “Wilderness Navigation: Finding Your Way Using Map, Compass, Altimeter & GPS,”](#) by Bob and Mike Burns. This book is popular with Boy Scout leaders, and is routinely used to teach Scouts how to read maps and use land navigation tools. It includes electronic GPS and altimeter use, as well as how to use a traditional magnetic compass.

Caution: Do not depend on electronics and battery-powered devices such as smartphones, GPS devices, or electronic compasses during an emergency situation. They may not work, or the batteries may become drained.

Book Chapter: “Communication During Emergency Situations”

[Flagging Tape](#) (not adhesive), aka/ ‘Construction Ribbon,’ as used in the building industry. Use it to indicate the location where a message was left behind, or to mark a route. To avoid confusion, select [two colors of tape](#), and make sure each member of your group knows which color is for each purpose (messaging vs. route marking). Include at least 30-feet of this plastic ribbon in each color, for each GO-Bag. For instructions on how to use this tape for messaging, look for this topic in the chapter on communications. Also, since family members may forget, with this flagging tape and the below crayons, include instructions on how to leave messages and mark routes. [Click Here](#) for an assortment of tape colors from which to choose.

[Construction / Lumber Crayon](#). As an alternative, a crayon can be used to leave a message (or directional signal) on a paved street, wall or building. Select two colors, one a light color crayon such as [yellow](#), the other a darker color such as [red](#). When needed, select the color which provides the highest contrast to the background material. Along with the two colors of construction tape, include both colored crayons in the GO-Bag belonging to each member of your family/group. The above flagging tap can be wrapped around the two crayons to keep these messaging tools together in one bundle. If you only need one or two crayons, they can be purchased individually at a large hardware store.

2-Way Communication

[goTenna](#) for sending text messages from a smartphone when cell towers are not working, or when in a rural area where there isn't any mobile phone signal. Before purchasing, be sure to read the section in this chapter of the book which addresses the “Positives” and “Negatives” of this product. Note: We do not recommend the goTenna “Mesh” product because it is underpowered and has extremely limited range.

[GMS 2-Way Walkie-Talkie \(handheld\) Radio.](#)

If you want to buy a low-cost 2-way radio that can be used to communicate between members of your group, without a license, a GMRS radio is probably your best choice. Dirt-cheap models sold in sporting goods and toy stores are usually inadequate for emergency use, but several manufacturers produce quality lower-cost radios from which to choose. Remember, you need at least two of these radios to communicate. See the “Communication During Emergency Situations” chapter in the book for details, and to compare GMRS radios with other 2-way radio options.

Amateur (Ham) 2-Way Radios

An “amateur” (ham) radio is what we recommend for 2-way communication during an emergency situation. See book for details.

Legal use of these radios requires a license, but the licensing process is manageable for most adults. In any case, as discussed in the book, this type of radio is, by far, out top-choice for 2-way communication during an emergency situation.

Below you will find links to recommended “handheld” (walkie-talkie) radios, as well as “mobile” radios for use in vehicles. When coupled with an outdoor antenna and a power supply (see below), these mobile radios can also be used inside your home as a base station.

Below you will find radios and accessories which our team recommends. The first category listed below is a “budget” radio setup that is inexpensive, portable, small and lightweight—so it will be easy to add one to your GO-Bag. Following this ‘budget’ radio equipment recommendation you will find our “recommended” radio gear.

To avoid confusion and repetitiveness, we have only included the suggested accessories and optional add-on equipment with the ‘budget’ radio setup. These items are needed for the “recommended” radio setup, too, but the reader can identify the equivalent accessory parts they need on the radio’s product page, or on the manufacturer’s website.

‘Budget’ Walkie-Talkie Amateur (Ham) Radio Set-up.

Realizing that most people are not willing to purchase high-quality or professional-grade radio equipment, at least not initially, we have selected the best low-price ‘budget’ radio and accessories which will still do the job. In the following paragraphs, you will find links to the ‘budget’ radio we recommend, along with links to necessary and optional accessories. Better quality radios and options follow in this section. If you are interested in our first-choice selection, scroll to the subtitle, “*Recommended Walkie-Talkie Amateur (Ham) Radio Set-up.*”

‘Budget’ 2-Way Radio: [Baofeng UV-5RTP 8-Watt Handheld \(walkie-talkie\).](#) (Order at least 2; ideally, one for each person.) Note: These are low-cost radios, so if you can afford it, order at least one spare for every three radios. See page-8 for our highest-rated handheld radio.

[Extended-Life Battery](#) (One for each radio.) Note: these are larger than the rechargeable battery which comes with the radio, but they do fit into the same charger. Use this extended-life battery on your radio, but keep the other one charged and available as a spare. When the radio is “on” but used only in standby mode (listening), this large battery can last for 36-hours. But, if

you are using the radio to transmit (talk), the battery life will be greatly reduced. So, keep both batteries charged. To keep your radios ready for use in an emergency situation, remove them one at a time from your GO-Bag, so that there is always one battery with your radio in your GO-Bag. Recharge these and other rechargeable Lithium-ion batteries every three months.

[Larger Antenna](#) to increase the range of the walkie-talkie. (One for each radio.) Keep the original antenna handy in case you damage this antenna. Antennas are perhaps the most vulnerable-to-damage part of a walkie-talkie radio.

[Magnet-base Antenna](#) is needed to improve radio transmissions from inside a vehicle. When needed, place the antenna in the center of the steel roof of your car or truck (or trunk/boot), and run the wire from the antenna through a small opening in one of the backseat windows, and then to the radio inside the vehicle. Unscrew the antenna from the radio and attach it to the wire which is attached to the antenna on the outside of the vehicle. Close the window without pinching the antenna wire, and leave enough slack in the wire to allow the door to open. It is far better to use a ham radio antenna designed to be permanently mounted on your vehicle, but for those who don't want to drill holes in their car, this is the next-best option.

[Better 'budget' antenna](#) than the lower-quality model listed above.

[12-Volt Power adapter to use the above walkie-talkie radio while in a vehicle.](#) This device makes it possible to power the radio through the cigarette lighter receptacle in your vehicle so that you don't drain the radio's battery. The Li-ion battery which comes with the radio is rechargeable, and a desktop charger is included with the above radio. However, in an emergency situation, you may not have access to a functioning 110-volt electrical outlet, so powering your radio through the vehicle's electrical system can be a godsend. Note: If you are using a gas-powered generator to recharge batteries, separate the radio from the battery. The power produced by a generator can easily damage sensitive electronics.

Optional but Useful Radio Accessories

[AA-Battery Pack](#) to adapt the radio to use standard AA batteries. (Optional accessory)

[Covert Microphone and Earpiece.](#) (Optional) An external microphone and earpiece are worth considering so that you can listen to the radio quietly, and talk into it using a whisper. It also makes it possible to listen to, and use, the radio without removing it from your belt or knapsack's pocket.

[Replacement Charger.](#) The above Baofeng UV-5 radio comes with a small Li-ion battery and a desktop recharging unit. Since I've never had a problem with the radio itself, but I have had two chargers fail, I have included this replacement charger in case you want to purchase a spare.

[Programming Cable](#) to use with a computer to get set-up your radio with the frequencies you will want to access quickly. Just like the preset buttons on your car radio, it makes sense to have a selection of needed frequencies pre-programmed into your radio. If you don't pre-program these frequencies into your radio, the needed frequency can still be punched in manually whenever you need them. It's just that it's far easier, faster and improves accuracy if you program your radio with these frequencies. This programming can be done manually, but it is much easier to use this programming cable, your computer, and software designed for this purpose.

[CHIRP radio programming software.](#) The above cable connects your radio to your computer, but you still need software to create a frequency spreadsheet designed for programming the radio.

This software makes it possible to quickly upload frequency information into a radio, eliminating the need to laboriously do this by hand using the radio’s small keypad. Importantly, once you’ve developed this spreadsheet, it can be used again and again to program other radios.

There is radio-specific Baofeng software which you can purchase, but in our experience, the CHIRP software is better and easier to use—and it’s free. And, the CHIRP website includes easy-to-follow instructions, too. Be sure to select the version of this software made for your model of radio.

Even if you don’t plan to program your radios immediately, it’s worth downloading this software and the instructions so that you have it if circumstances change and you need it when the Internet isn’t working.

[Radio Manual](#). This open-source radio manual for the Baofeng radio is much better than the one that comes from the manufacturer. (If you even get one.) We recommend that you download and print a copy of this manual and keep it with your radio gear. If you choose a radio other than the Baofeng, try to find a user’s manual online that can be used as a companion to the manufacturer’s manual.

[Amateur \(Ham\) Radio Information Resources](#). [ARRL is the national association for amateur radio](#) in the U.S. Their website contains an assortment of free resources. It includes information on where and how to get a radio operator’s license, product reviews on radios and antennas, user articles, AERS (‘Amateur Radio Emergency Service’ volunteer opportunities), information on how to find a local radio club and an ‘Elmer’ (mentor), and recommended “how-to” books which are available for purchase.

[Licensing](#) is required to operate a ham radio. The basic rating is ‘Technician,’ followed by ‘General,’ and the operator rating ‘Amateur Extra.’ [ARRL.org](#) (above) maintains a list of local radio clubs. Contact several in your area to get information on when and where a test will be monitored. To study for the test or to get an idea as to what questions are on the test, there are many free online resources and smartphone apps. One of the most popular is [HamStudy.org](#).

Our ‘Recommended’ Walkie-Talkie Amateur Radio Set-up (below) is more expensive than the previously mentioned Baofeng ‘budget’ radio. However, if you can afford it, the below ‘recommended’ setup is far more robust, more durable, and all-around better ‘professional-grade’ quality. Nonetheless, in our opinion, it is far, far better to have a hobbyist amateur (ham) radio gear than none at all.

[#1 ‘Recommended’ Handheld - Kenwood TH-D74A](#): This is a professional-quality walkie-talkie that can also be paired with a laptop to send digital text messages.

[Programming Cable, Software, and Mini-Manual](#) for the above radio.

[Antenna – Diamond SRH320A](#) 144/220/440 MHz Tri-Band, 14-inch expanded-range antenna for attaching directly to the above radio. Slightly longer than the antenna that comes with the above radio, this is designed to expand the distance that the radio can transmit. (Keep the OEM antenna for a spare.)

[Spare Battery](#) for Above. Kenwood KNB-75L Li-ion Battery Pack (1,800 mAh)

[Covert Mic](#) for above radio. Kenwood KHS8BL

[Covert Earpiece and External HD Mic](#) for above radio.

[Cigarette Lighter Adapter](#) for above radio.

[Outside Antenna for Vehicle – Option #1.](#) Larsen NMO-150BHW 144 - 174 MHz, ½ wavelength antenna with coil - NMO Base. For 2-meter radios such as the ICOM 2300H (below).

[Outside Antenna for Vehicle – Option #2.](#) Diamond CR8900A Quad-Band Mobile Antenna. (Needs Mount). Designed for radios capable of transmitting on 10m, 6m, 2m, and 70cm bands, such as the Baofeng UV-5RTP (above), and the TYT 9800 and ICOM IC-7200 (below).

[Antenna Mounting Option 'A': Trunk-Lip Mount.](#) Diamond K600S Tilt / Variable Angle Trunk Mount. This 'clamp' style mount attaches to the lip of a car's trunk/boot. This mount is for the above Diamond antenna. The antenna itself can be removed and stored inside the vehicle when not in use, but the mount remains in place. This method makes your antenna significantly more efficient than a magnet mount.

[Antenna Mounting Option 'B': Magnetic Mount.](#) Developed for temporarily mounting the above Diamond antenna onto the steel roof or trunk/boot of your vehicle. If you do not want to semi-permanently add an antenna mount to your vehicle, then use a magnet-mount like this one. This is a far better choice than trying to use a handheld walkie-talkie from inside your vehicle. Note: Antenna Mounting Option #1 will provide greater range than this magnetic mount. This option is for those who are looking for convenience, and for those who do not want to divulge that their vehicle is 2-way radio equipped.

Other Optional Accessories: Review the accessories and resources we recommend for the 'budget' radio setup listed on pages 7-8, and adapt it by selecting the equivalent products made for the Kenwood radio. The price differential between the 'budget' radio gear and the 'recommended' gear is due to increased durability and reliability. This contrast is "hobbyist" vs. "professional-grade" quality. This better gear is what we recommend, but we realize that most people cannot afford the high-quality equipment, at least nor initially.

'Mobile' 2-Way Amateur (Ham) Radio for mounting in a vehicle (portable), or for use as a 'base station' at home (fixed location). An antenna and antenna mount are not included with these radios and must be purchased separately. (See the top of this page and the following page).

[Budget Mobile-Radio Option #1: ICOM 2300H 05 144MHz Transceiver.](#) ICOM is a topnotch manufacturer, and this radio is rated to a military standard for durability (mil-std-810 g), but rather than having the four frequency operating ranges of the below radio, this 65-watt model only has one (2 meters).

[Budget Mobile-Radio Option #2: TYT-9800 Quad-band Transceiver.](#) Model 1704A (Updated version of the TYT TH-9800) is a 50-watt transmitter. It operates on four bands, 10M/6M/2M/70cm. This product offering also includes the programming cable and software.

[#1 'Recommended' Mobile Radio: ICOM IC-7200 Mobile Radio.](#) This is a ruggedized 100-watt mobile radio suitable for use in a vehicle or as a base station at home. To use this radio as a base station in your home or another stationary location, a power supply is needed to convert 110-volt current to the 12-volts needed by the radio. A 'recommended' power supply can be found on the following page. This radio does not come with an antenna. Consider the Diamond CR8900A for use in a vehicle, and the Ringo Ranger (next page) for base station use.

[Mini-Manual](#) for Above Radio.

[Slim Jim Portable Antenna](#). This portable outdoor antenna is a mobile solution to extend the range of either a handheld walkie-talkie ham radio or a vehicle-based mobile ham radio. It is for use at a location where you will remain stationary for several hours or days. While almost any base-station antenna will provide greater range than this antenna, the Slim Jim is included here because it can greatly increase the operating range of your handheld or mobile radio when you are operating at a stationary, temporary location.

A Slim Jim is more effective than a long ‘whip’ antenna attached directly to a handheld radio, or even a vehicle-mounted whip antenna such as the ones listed above. This antenna is easy to setup, and when you are ready to store it, it can be rolled-up for carrying in a knapsack. Note: Purchase the antenna model designed to fit your radio’s antenna connection. Or, the adapter needed to make the connection between your brand/model of radio and the antenna.

[‘Ringo Ranger’ Base Station Antenna](#) for use at your home or a fixed location. The ‘Ringo Ranger’ by Cushcraft model AR-270, is a dual-band (144-148/430-450 MHz - 2m/70cm) antenna that is easy to install and is effective. Mount it at the highest point on your house, or better yet, on a tall pole to give it additional elevation above the roof. Use guy wires as needed, but do not attach support wires to the antenna itself.

Note on base station antennas: Antenna choice depends on frequencies and where the antenna will be mounted, your terrain, the distance to the other radio you are trying to reach and many other factors. If your circumstance is unusual, or your need is to transmit/receive in one direction, or from a valley, or other buildings overshadow you, then you may want to select a different antenna. For more information on antennas, visit <http://www.arrrl.org/antennas> where you will find many helpful articles and books on this topic.

[Power Supply](#). TekPower TP30SWII 30 Amp DC 13.8V Analog Switching Power Supply with Noise Offset. A ‘power supply’ is needed to connect any of the above ‘mobile’ radios to the ordinary 110-volt household current in an American home. If you live in the UK, Europe, or certain other parts of the world, you may need a different power supply; one that is designed for 240-volt electrical current. Note: A 60-watt radio will work fine with a power supply rated at 100-watts, but a 100-watt radio will not transmit with a 60-watt power supply. So, be sure the wattage output of your power supply is equal to, or greater than, that of your radio. All of the above-listed radios will work fine with this recommended power supply.

Amateur (Ham) Radio Advice: A popular store for purchasing professional-grade amateur radio gear is ‘Ham Radio Outlet’ (www.hamradio.com/contact.cfm / 800-444-4799). Even if you have an Elmer (mentor for ham radios), you might want to visit or call HRO and get their advice before making your purchase decisions on expensive amateur radio gear.

When mounting an antenna on a vehicle or when using a magnetic-mounted antenna, do not coil extra wire in a circle as this will cause interference. You can coil the excess wire, but scrunch the circle to form a shape like a bowtie. This will generally solve the problem.

The next iteration of this document will be available in two weeks. It will also contain product information for the following chapters.

GO-Bag Contents: Food & Water

GO-Bag Contents: Supplies and Gear

Clothing & Footwear for Evacuation

Emergency Kits: Vehicle-based and at-Home Supplies

Gun Selection & Ammunition Choices

Tear Gas & Pepper Spray as a Self-Defense Option

Medical Emergencies: You'll Need More than a First-Aid Kit

Preparing for a Dental Emergency

Flashlights, Headlamps, Emergency Lighting, and Batteries

Fuel Transport, Stabilization & Safe Storage

Transportable Secure Data Storage

PDF Reference Documents

Pets: Turning a Problem into an Asset

GO-Bag for Extended Duration Use